



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

March 4, 2005

News Release

OPERATION PREDATOR ARRESTS SURPASS 5,000

Atlanta area accounts for more than 84 arrests in initiative targeting child sex predators

ATLANTA, GA – More than 84 of the 5,000 child sex offenders arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of an ongoing international initiative known as Operation Predator have occurred in the Atlanta district.

Michael J. Garcia, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE, announced today that arrests in the 20-month long effort have surpassed 5,000. Among those individuals arrested here are:

- Robert Boudreau 50, a Canadian citizen living in Woodstock, Georgia, arrested Friday after being indicted by a federal grand jury, Feb. 22, 2005 on charges of traveling across state lines to engage in sexual conduct with a minor under the age of 18.
- Leonard Herbert Shannon 35, of Jefferson, Georgia, arrested on Nov. 8, 2004 after being indicted by a federal grand jury for four counts of distribution of child pornography, and one count of child pornography. He was sentenced to serve 40-months in federal prison on March 2, 2005. He was also given 20-years court supervised probation and ordered to pay \$4000 in fines.
- Gregory C. Kapordelis a 43-year-old Anesthesiologist and U.S. citizen, arrested on April 13, 2004 on federal charges of traveling to Russia for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual conduct with a minor. A criminal complaint alleges Kapordelis had molested minor males at a St. Petersburg, Russia hotel in 2003.

Operation Predator is a comprehensive initiative aimed at those who prey on and exploit children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable.

“The protection of our children from sexual predators is one of our highest priorities,” said Kenneth A. Smith Special Agent-in-Charge for the Atlanta Office. “We are committed to pursue and prosecute these criminals who pose serious threats to the children of this nation, whether they travel overseas for illicit sex with minors, or use the internet to entice, distribute, or send images of child pornography to underage children.”

Operation Predator evolved out of ICE's mission to find and deport illegal aliens -- particularly those with criminal records, and reflects the agency's traditional public safety mission. Those arrested fall into four general categories:

Foreign National Child Predators: More than 85 percent of the arrests in Operation Predator involve foreign national sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. To date, more than 2,100 of these predators have been deported.

International Child Sex Tourists: Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE's attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents have made 14 arrests, including the first 12 arrests, under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act.

Human Smuggling & Trafficking of Children: The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and younger.

Internet Child Pornography: Drawing on ICE's cyber crime investigative expertise, ICE is tackling the crimes that cross the nation's virtual borders. One massive investigation has resulted in more than 1,200 arrests worldwide and marks the first time the government has gone after the financial side of child pornography. Moreover, through the National Child Victim Identification System, more than 1,600 pornographic images containing child pornography have been authenticated.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.